

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 108774

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, VS, VN

SUBJECT: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: VIET-NAM

REF: GENEVA 3368

1. WHILE WE ARE AWARE OF NO SPECIFIC PRECEDENTS OF SINGLE DELEGATION REPRESENTING TWO COUNTRIES IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, THERE APPEAR TO BE SIMILARITIES IN THE CASES OF UAR (EGYPT AND SYRIA) AND UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANGANYIKA AND ZANZIBAR, BUT IN BOTH THESE INSTANCES QUESTION AROSE AFTER FORMAL UNIFICATION HAD TAKEN PLACE.

2. WE NOTE THAT BOTH NORTH AND SOUTH VIET-NAM ARE MEMBERS OF WHO. AS REUNIFICATION OF VIET-NAM IS OBVIOUSLY IMMINENT,
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WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO SINGLE DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE

WHOLE OF VIET-NAM, PROVIDED THAT NORMAL WHO PROCEDURES ARE FOLLOWED. WE ASSUME SPECIFICALLY IN THIS CASE THAT NORMAL PROCEDURES WOULD INVOLVE REDUCING THEIR VOTING RIGHTS FROM TWO VOTES TO ONE. THE PRECEDENTS CITED IN PARAGRAPH 1 BEAR THIS OUT, AND THIS IS BASIC PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. IN ANY DISCUSSION OF ISSUE WITH SECRETARIAT OR OTHER DELEGATIONS, YOU CAN INDICATE THAT WE HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO

TWO DELEGATIONS WITH TWO VOTES REPRESENTING TWO COUNTRIES, OR ONE DELEGATION WITH ONE VOTE REPRESENTING ALL OF VIET-NAM, BUT FEEL THAT ONE DELEGATION WITH TWO VOTES IS CLEARLY INCONSISTENT WITH STANDARD INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE. WE WOULD HOPE THAT SECRETARIAT AND CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE COULD RESOLVE THIS ISSUE ON BASIS OF PRECEDENT AND STANDARD PROCEDURE, WITHOUT BRINGING THIS TO FLOOR OF WHO.

4. IN THE EVENT OF A VOTE ON THE ISSUE OF ONE DELEGATION HAVING TWO VOTES, YOU SHOULD OPPOSE STATING AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE OUR OPPOSITION TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT. IF ISSUE IS PUT IN TERMS OF ONE VOTE FOR A SINGLE DELEGATION, THE US SHOULD SIMPLY ABSTAIN. SISCO

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